

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 00946 091557 Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJ: NORWEGIAN TV PRESENTS INTERVIEW WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY
STOESSEL

REF: OSLO 210 NOTAL

1. ON MARCH 7 TH DURING PRIME EVENING VIEWING TIME JAHN OTTO JOHANSEN, NORWAY'S TOP TV COMMENTATOR AND A PARTICIPANT IN THE RECENT NATO FOREIGN JOURNALISTS TOUR, DEVOTED 15 MINUTES OF HIS WELL- KNOWN FOREIGN AFFAIRS PROGRAM, " UTENRIKSMAGASINET," TO THE SUBJECT OF US- EUROPEAN RELATIONS AFTER VIETNAM.

2. PROGRAM WHICH WAS VERY POSITIVE IN TONE BEGAN WITH PRESIDENT'S QUOTE THAT 1973 WOULD BE YEAR IN WHICH U. S. WOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPE AND WAS FOLLOWED BY BRIEF CUTS OF PRIME MINISTER HEATH'S AND EC COMMISSIONER SOAME'S VISITS TO WASHINGTON AND EXPLANATION THAT CHIEF SUBJECTS OF CONCERN TO U. S. WERE CSCE, MBFR AND TRADE RELATIONS WITH EC. REMAINDER OF PROGRAM (SOME 12 MINUTES) CONSISTED OF INTERVIEW WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL WHO PRESENTED OFFICIAL US. VIEWS AND POLICIES WITH REGARD TO NATO, U. S. FORCES IN EUROPE, EAST- WEST RELATIONS, MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS, AND TRADE RELATIONS. SECRETARY

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PAGE 02 OSLO 00946 091557 Z

CAME ACROSS EXTREMELY WELL TO NORWEGIAN VIEWERS WHO GAINED AN IMPRESSION THAT U. S. FOREIGN POLICY BEING HANDLED IN A SERIOUS REASONABLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER, WITH NO ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE SOLUTIONS ON OUR ALLIES. ENTIRE PROGRAM WAS REPEATED ON NORWEGIAN TV MARCH 8 TH. NRK- TV ESTIMATES THAT TWO PROGRAMS WERE SEEN BY A TOTAL OF 1-1/2 TO 2 MILLION VIEWERS.

3. WITH REGARD TO NATO JOURNALIST TOUR PROGRAM JOHANSEN TOLD PAO HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH ENTIRE VISIT AND SAID HE CAME AWAY FROM U. S. WITH FEELING THAT U. S. FOREIGN AFFAIRS WERE BEING HANDLED IN A " VERY COMPETENT AND PROFESSIONAL MANNER." VISITS TO WHITE HOUSE, STATE DEPT, PENTAGON, AND PARTICULARLY SACLANT IN NORFOLK HAD REASSURED HIM THAT U. S. LEADERS WERE FULLY AWARE OF SECURITY SITUATION IN NORTH ATLANTIC AND NORTH NORWAY AND THAT NORWEGIANS COULD COUNT ON U. S. COMMITMENT. JOHANSEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE TOUR HAD BEEN EXTREMELY WORTHWHILE FOR HIM PERSONALLY AS HE HADN' T BEEN IN THE U. S. FOR 6-1/2 YEARS. HE FELT IN RETROSPECT THAT THIS HAD BEEN MISTAKE FOR SOMEONE IN HIS POSITION AND THAT HE SHOULD HAVE REVISITED THE U. S. MUCH EARLIER.

4. ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY PARTS OF THE TOUR PROGRAM WHICH SHOULD BE CHANGED OR DROPPED HIS ONLY COMMENT WAS THAT THE WHITE SANDS PROGRAM MAY HAVE BEEN A LITTLE TOO TECHNICAL FOR MOST PARTICIPANTS.

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